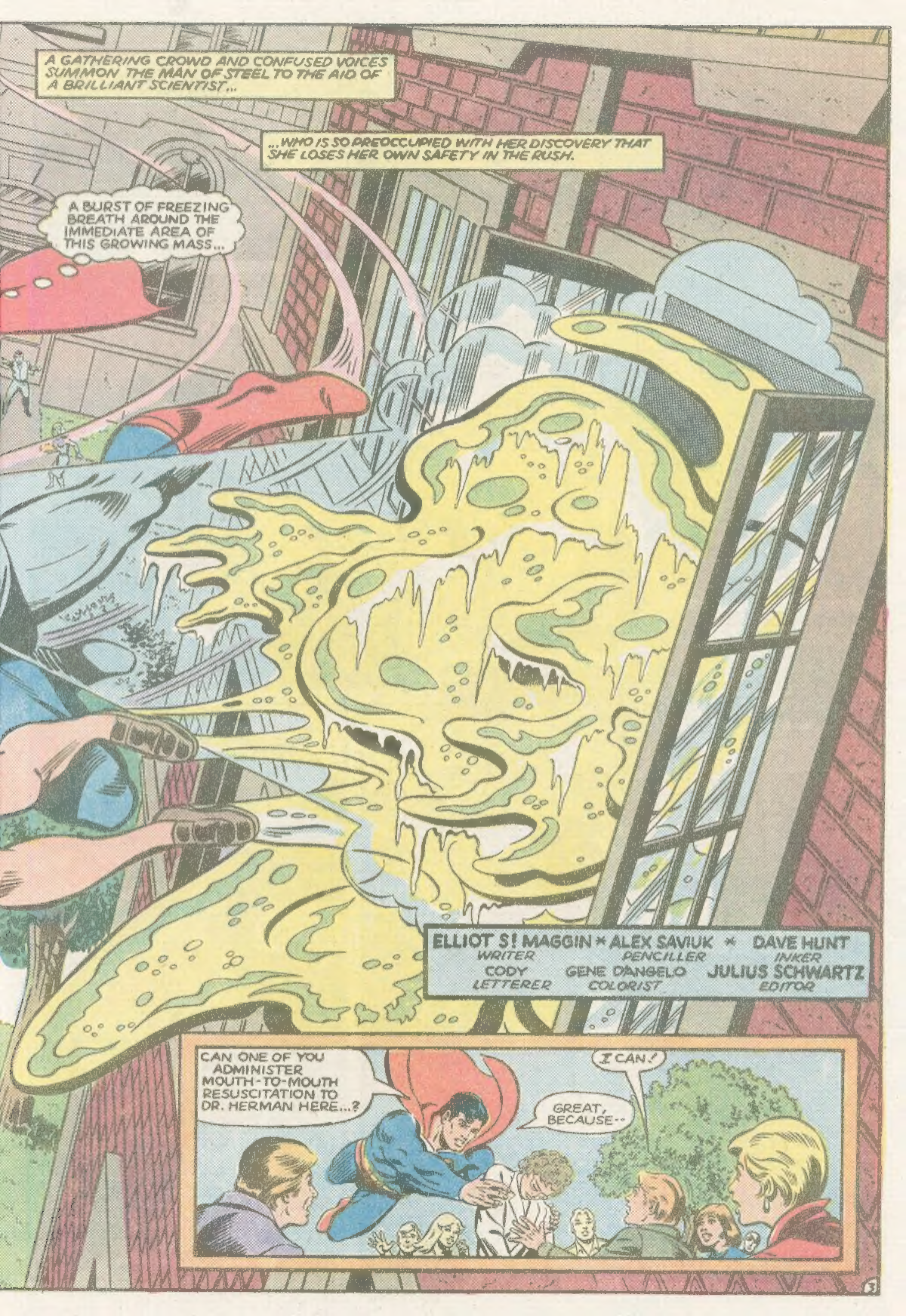
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
571
75¢
CAN. 95¢
U.K. 35p
SEPT. 85
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
GOOD EVENING-- I'M CLARK KENT WITH THE SIX O'CLOCK REPORT. AT THE TOP OF THE NEWS TONIGHT-- AN ITEM OF VITAL IMPORTANCE TO YOU ALL--
BLITZ
--DANGER--
ZLPT
--CERTAIN DEATH--
FTZ
--ANY MOMENT--
ZBAT
--YOUR ONLY HOPE IS--
FZZZZZZLE
1935
50
1985

EDITOR'S NOTE: THE EVENTS DEPICTED IN THIS STORY OCCURRED BEFORE THE "CLARK KENT--FIRED" SERIES NOW APPEARING IN SUPERMAN.

MISSION TO EARTH!

ACTION COMICS 571 (USPS 004-480). Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10103. Second class postage paid at New York, NY and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ACTION COMICS, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside U.S.A. $11.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright © 1985 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Sanford Schwarz & Co., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
DC Comics Inc. A Warner Communications Company

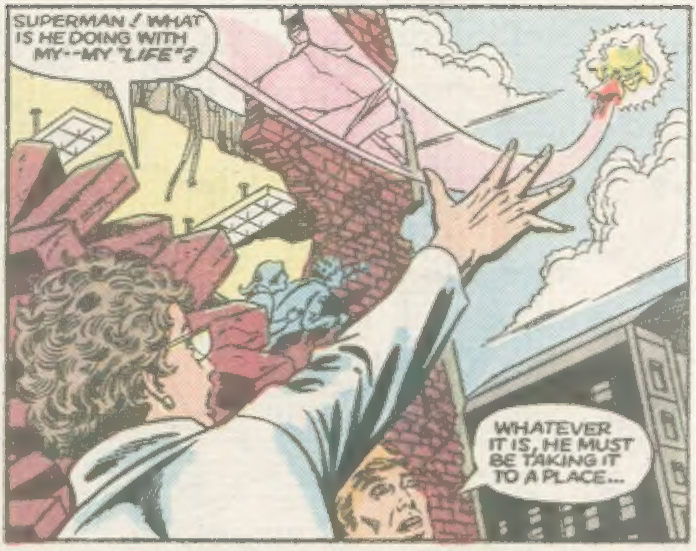
WHAT'S WITH PROFESSOR HERMAN? SHE'S LAUGHING LIKE MAD AS SMOKE IS COMING OUT OF THE WINDOW!
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SMOKE TO ME, BUT--
--THAT SURE LOOKS LIKE...
...AND I CAN POP THIS WOMAN OUT OF HERE LIKE A CORK FROM A BOTTLE--
--HEY! THIS IS ALICE HERMAN... THE RENOWNED BIOLOGIST!


A GATHERING CROWD AND CONFUSED VOICES SUMMON THE MAN OF STEEL TO THE AID OF A BRILLIANT SCIENTIST...
...WHO IS SO PREOCCUPIED WITH HER DISCOVERY THAT SHE LOSES HER OWN SAFETY IN THE RUSH.
A BURST OF FREEZING BREATH AROUND THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THIS GROWING MASS...
ELLIOT S! MAGGIN WRITER
ALEX SAVIUK PENCILLER
DAVE HUNT INKER
CODY LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR
CAN ONE OF YOU ADMINISTER MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION TO DR. HERMAN HERE...?
I CAN!
GREAT, BECAUSE--

--OVER HERE IS A JOB FOR SUPERMAN!
THE SUPER-BREATH TRICK WORKED FINE A MOMENT AGO...
...AND IT SEEMS TO BE WORKING AGAIN--
--ALTHOUGH NOT QUITE WELL ENOUGH!
WHOOSH
THE PULSING OOZE HALTS ITS GROWTH, GELS, AND FREEZES--
--ONLY AFTER IT HAS GROWN ENOUGH TO BUCKLE THE OUTER WALL OF THE OLD UNIVERSITY BUILDING...
BY MOVING BACK AND FORTH FAST ENOUGH...
...NONE OF THESE BRICKS...
...WILL REACH THE GROUND...
..OR ANYONE ON IT.
OHH... I MUST HAVE FAINTED--
MY EXPERIMENT! GOT TO GET BACK TO IT--
4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

I'VE CREATED A NEW FORM OF LIFE AND--
PROFESSOR HERMAN--STOP! IT'S TOO DANGEROUS TO GO BACK INTO YOUR LAB!

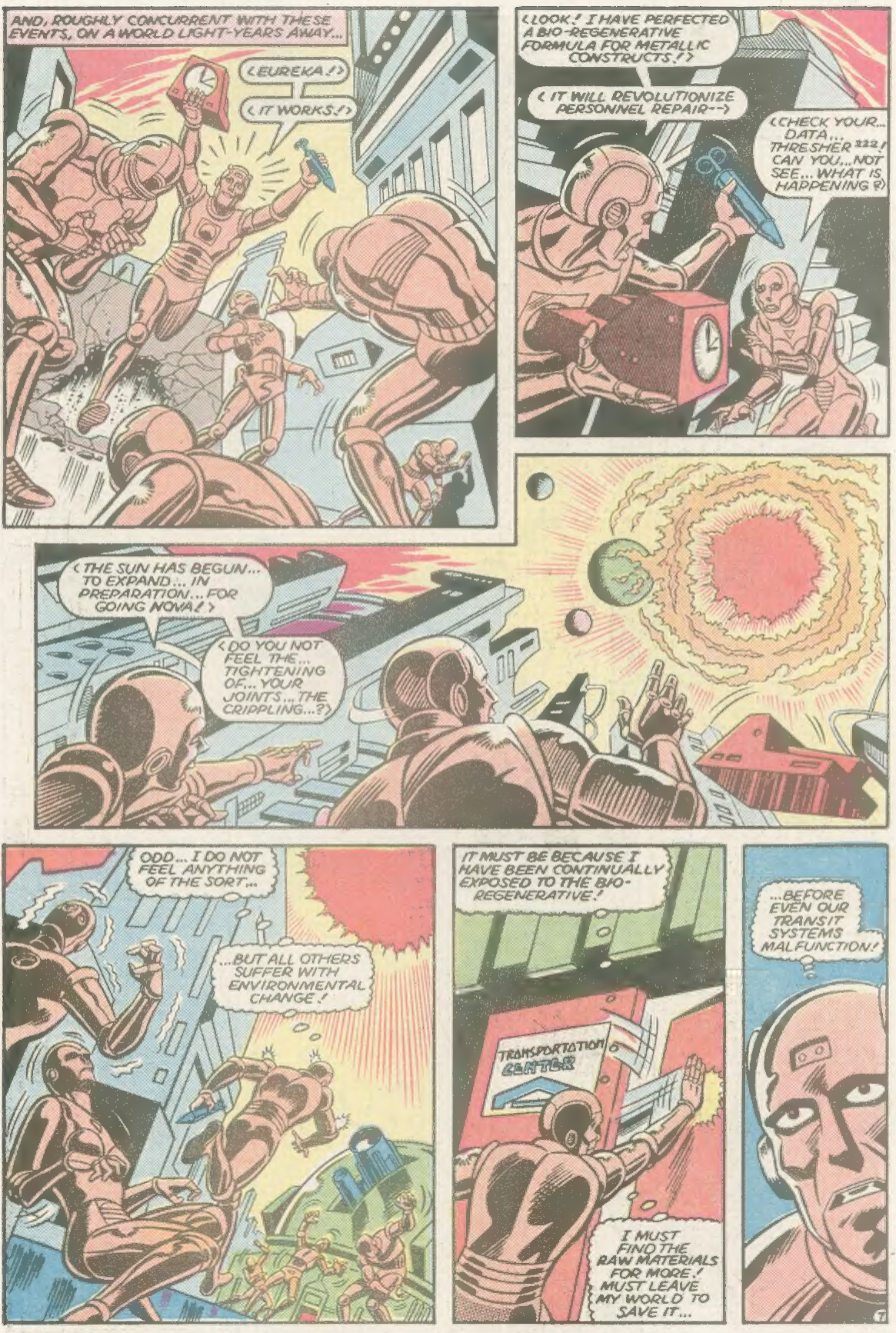

SUPERMAN! WHAT IS HE DOING WITH MY--MY "LIFE"?
WHATEVER IT IS, HE MUST BE TAKING IT TO A PLACE...

"...WHERE IT'LL BE SAFE!"
THIS IS LIVING TISSUE... BUT OF A TYPE I'VE NEVER SEEN ON EARTH...
...OR ANYWHERE ELSE!

I DO KNOW, THOUGH, THAT IT'S SIMPLE ENOUGH SO THAT IT WON'T BE HARMED BY FROZEN SUSPENSION--

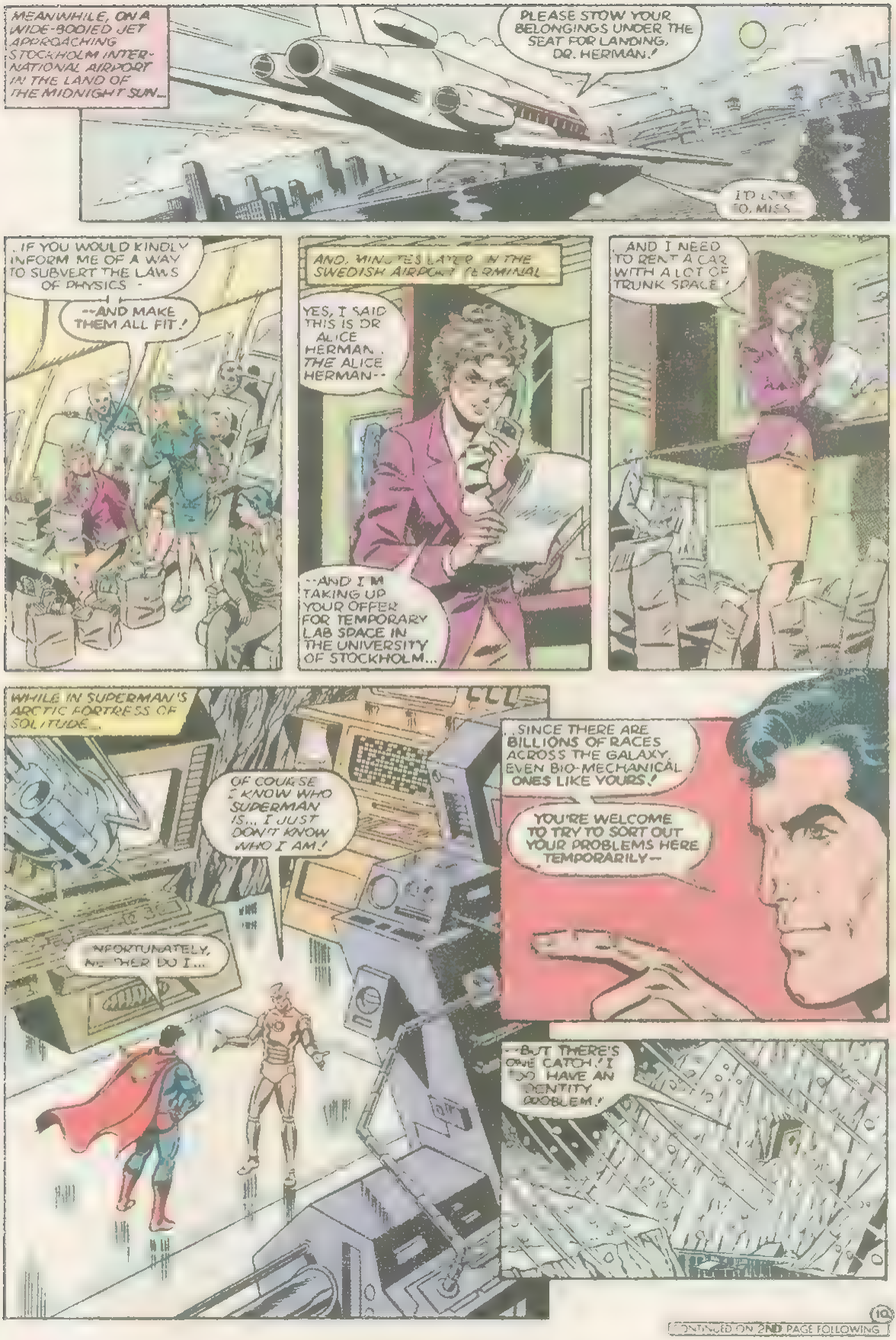
--UNTIL DR. HERMAN OR I CAN SUBJECT IT TO A VERY GUARDED EXAMINATION!

NEXT MORNING, THE DAILY PLANET OFFICES OF CLARK KENT...
DAILY PLANET
NOBEL PRIZE IN MEDICINE ANNOUNCED
HONOR COMES TO BOLIVIAN NUTRITIONI
METROPOLIS PROFESSOR FLIPS OUT-- DR. HERMAN TRIES TO FLY AFTER SUPER
MR. KENT...A DR. HERMAN WANTS TO SPEAK TO A REPORTER!
ALICE HERMAN?... I'LL BE RIGHT OUT!
... SO, MR. HOT-SHOT NEWSMAN, IT ISN'T ENOUGH THAT YOU MAKE A BIG DEAL ABOUT THAT SOUTH AMERICAN CRACK-POT WHO WON THE PRIZE I SHOULD HAVE GOTTEN--
--BUT DO YOU HAVE TO TAKE PUBLIC NOTICE OF MY EMBARRASSMENTS, TOO?
WELL, ER... AHH--
--IT ISN'T IN THE BEST OF TASTE, I KNOW, BUT...
--BUT YOUR RAG OF A PAPER WILL BE HEARING FROM ME...
...AS WELL AS THE NOBEL PRIZE COMMITTEE, FOR THAT MATTER!
PA KENT WARNED ME THERE'D BE DAYS LIKE THIS!
WHY SO DOWN-IN-THE MOUTH, CLARK?
I JUST HAD A RUN-IN WITH A DISGRUNTLED READER, PERRY...
OH, THAT! IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY OF THOSE...
...WE WOULDN'T BE DOING OUR JOBS!
TO ROOSEVELT AIRPORT, CABBY, ON THE DOUBLE!
I'VE GOT A JOB TO DO IN STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN!
6


AND, ROUGHLY CONCURRENT WITH THESE EVENTS, ON A WORLD LIGHT-YEARS AWAY...
〈EUREKA!〉
〈IT WORKS!〉
〈LOOK! I HAVE PERFECTED A BIO-REGENERATIVE FORMULA FOR METALLIC CONSTRUCTS!〉
〈IT WILL REVOLUTIONIZE PERSONNEL REPAIR--〉
〈CHECK YOUR... DATA... THRESHER 222! CAN YOU... NOT SEE... WHAT IS HAPPENING?〉
〈THE SUN HAS BEGUN... TO EXPAND... IN PREPARATION... FOR GOING NOVA!〉
〈DO YOU NOT FEEL THE... TIGHTENING OF... YOUR JOINTS... THE CRIPPLING...?〉
ODD... I DO NOT FEEL ANYTHING OF THE SORT...
...BUT ALL OTHERS SUFFER WITH ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE!
IT MUST BE BECAUSE I HAVE BEEN CONTINUALLY EXPOSED TO THE BIO-REGENERATIVE!
TRANSPORTATION CENTER
I MUST FIND THE RAW MATERIALS FOR MORE! MUST LEAVE MY WORLD TO SAVE IT...
...BEFORE EVEN OUR TRANSIT SYSTEMS MALFUNCTION!

MOLYBDENUM IS THE RARE METAL THRESHER 222 NEEDS TO MANU-FACTURE HIS REGENERATIVE SILICON...
THE SENSITIVE BUT STIFFENING MACHINERY OF THE TRANSIT CENTER SENDS A BEAM OF FASTER-THAN-LIGHT ENERGY...
..CONTAINING THE MOLECULAR CODES FOR THE LAST FULLY FUNCTIONAL MEMBER OF THE GYROS-4 RACE TOWARD...
--YOU GUESSED IT--A GREEN WORLD WHERE, ACCORDING TO SENSORS, THERE IS A FAIR SUPPLY OF MOLYBDENUM...
SIR, THERE'S A--ER, I THOUGHT I SAW A BLIP OVER THE ARCTIC--BUT IT'S GONE!
PROBABLY JUST SUPERMAN DOING HIS MORNING WORKOUT AGAIN!
SOME SORT OF BEAM OF LIGHT--FROM SPACE!
I DON'T KNOW IF THE AIR-DEFENSE BOYS SPOTTED THIS ONE--
--BUT I'M GLAD THEY WEREN'T DOING THEIR WATCHDOG ACT WHEN I LANDED ON...
...GREAT KRYPTON!

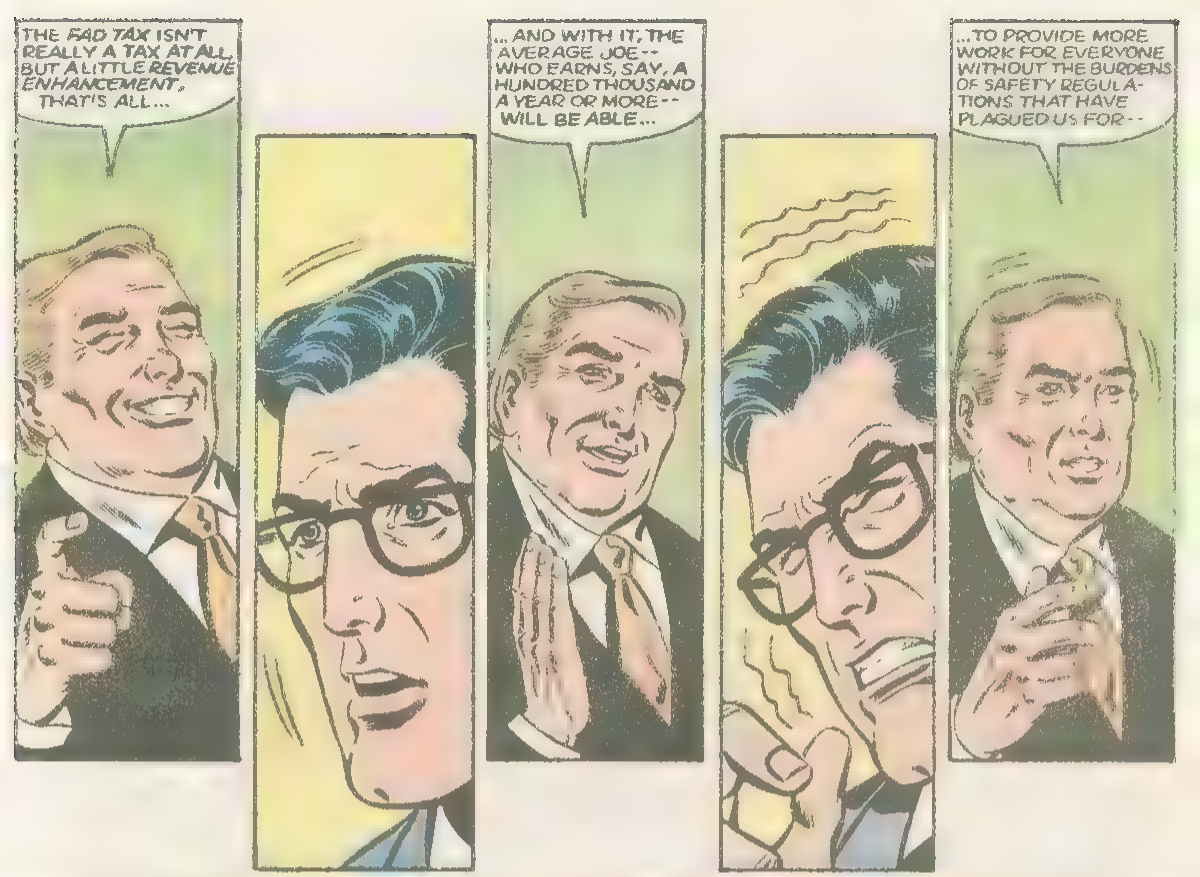
THE MOUTH OF THE MAN OF STEEL FALLS OPEN TO BITING ARCTIC AIR AS HE STANDS WITNESS TO A TRANSFORMATION THE LIKES OF WHICH EVEN HE HAS NEVER SEEN...
...AS SNOW AND ICE--
--AND WIND AND AIR--
--SPIN TOGETHER FROM THE CHAOS OF THE TUNDRA--
--TO TAKE AN UNFAMILIAR FORM...
SUBATOMIC PARTICLES OF LOCAL MATERIALS REARRANGED THEMSELVES INTO A CODED PATTERN TO REFORM YOU. DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
THE SYNTAX OF YOUR LANGUAGE IS ODD--BUT I COMPUTE IT.
YOU USE AN INTERESTING MEANS OF TELEPORTATION. WHO ARE YOU?
THIS IS AN UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENT.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHO I AM--
--ALTHOUGH I'M SURE I DID KNOW UNTIL THIS MOMENT.
HOW DO ALL THESE WINNERS FALL INTO MY LAP?

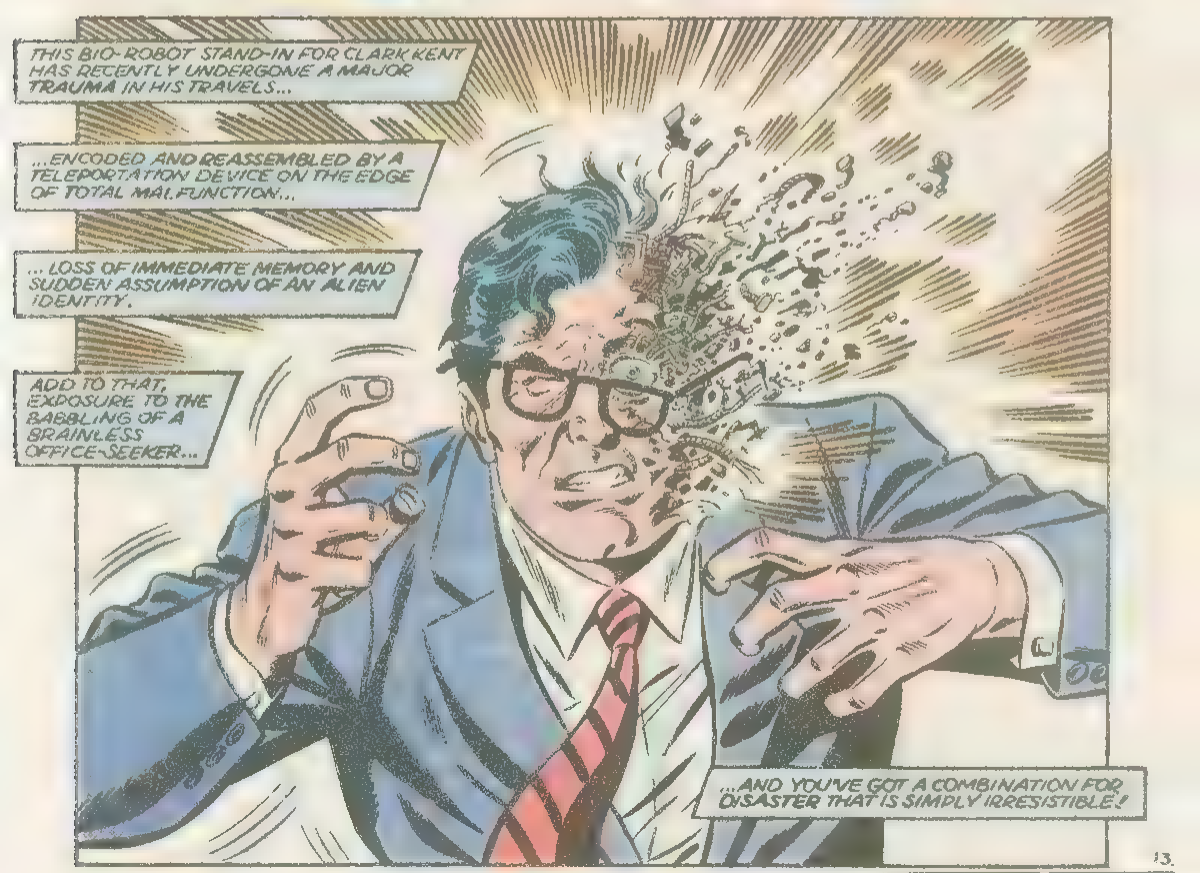

MEANWHILE, ON A WIDE-BODIED JET APPROACHING STOCKHOLM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IN THE LAND OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN...
PLEASE STOW YOUR BELONGINGS UNDER THE SEAT FOR LANDING, DR. HERMAN!
I'D LOVE TO, MISS...
...IF YOU WOULD KINDLY INFORM ME OF A WAY TO SUBVERT THE LAWS OF PHYSICS -
--AND MAKE THEM ALL FIT!
AND, MINUTES LATER, IN THE SWEDISH AIRPORT TERMINAL...
YES, I SAID THIS IS DR ALICE HERMAN. THE ALICE HERMAN--
--AND I'M TAKING UP YOUR OFFER FOR TEMPORARY LAB SPACE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF STOCKHOLM...
...AND I NEED TO RENT A CAR WITH A LOT OF TRUNK SPACE!
WHILE IN SUPERMAN'S ARCTIC FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE...
OF COURSE I KNOW WHO SUPERMAN IS... I JUST DON'T KNOW WHO I AM!
UNFORTUNATELY, NEITHER DO I...
...SINCE THERE ARE BILLIONS OF RACES ACROSS THE GALAXY, EVEN BIO-MECHANICAL ONES LIKE YOURS!
YOU'RE WELCOME TO TRY TO SORT OUT YOUR PROBLEMS HERE TEMPORARILY--
--BUT THERE'S ONE CATCH! I DO HAVE AN IDENTITY PROBLEM!

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

THE WAY I GET BY ON THIS WORLD IS WITH A SECRET IDENTITY--AN ALTER EGO..
AND HIS LIFE IS N SOMEWHAT OF A AM TOMORROW / I NEED A STAND-IN!
"TELL ME... HOW ARE YOUR BIO-CIRCUITS AT AS- MU AT A INFORMATION QUICKLY...?
HERE'S SOME BACKGROUND INFO ON TODAY'S GUESTS, CLARK...
AND SOME SUGGESTED QUESTIONS IN CASE YOU HIT A SNAG!
NOONDAY LIVE
COUNCILMAN GREGG BE YOUR FIRST GUEST...
YES, SIR--
RIGHT, SIR--
AND SINCE WHEN DO YOU CALL YOUR LONG-TIME PRODUCER JOSH COYLE--"SIR"?
UMM I DON'T KNOW, SIR MR COYLE-
AND IN THE GREEN ROOM, WHERE GUESTS AWAIT THEIR APPEARANCES ON THE LIVE BROADCAST...
THIS IS CLARK KENT SUBSTITUTING FOR THE VACATIONING DAN REED AND THIS IS NOONDAY LIVE!
LOOK! I WAS WONDERING WHEN HE'D GET HERE. AND HOW--!
"HERE!"

YOU'RE WHERE? AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN STOCKHOLM--?
VERY GOOD, SIR! I'VE GRADUATE ASSISTANTS HAVE BEEN FILLING IN,
ALICE YOU'VE BEEN ACTING AWFULLY ODD SINCE THE NOBEL PRIZE WENT BY. OH, NOW I GET IT!
THEY AWARD THE NOBEL PRIZES IN STOCKHOLM!
ALICE, YOU'RE NOT THINKING OF SOMETHING RASH ARE--
ALICE?
I THINK I'D LIKE THAT LADY BETTER IF SHE CALLED BEFORE SHE DECIDED NOT TO COME IN TO WORK!
CLICK
--SO YOU'RE SAYING, COUNCILMAN GREGG, THAT IF YOU'RE ELECTED MAYOR--
--BUT THAT IT WON'T COST ANYBODY ANYTHING?
THAT IS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT, MR KENT
NOCTURNAL LIVE
FRIENDLY AND DELICATE TAX PLAN
TAX


THE FAD TAX ISN'T REALLY A TAX AT ALL, BUT A LITTLE REVENUE ENHANCEMENT, THAT'S ALL...
... AND WITH IT, THE AVERAGE JOE -- WHO EARNS, SAY, A HUNDRED THOUSAND A YEAR OR MORE -- WILL BE ABLE...
...TO PROVIDE MORE WORK FOR EVERYONE WITHOUT THE BURDENS OF SAFETY REGULATIONS THAT HAVE PLAGUED US FOR--

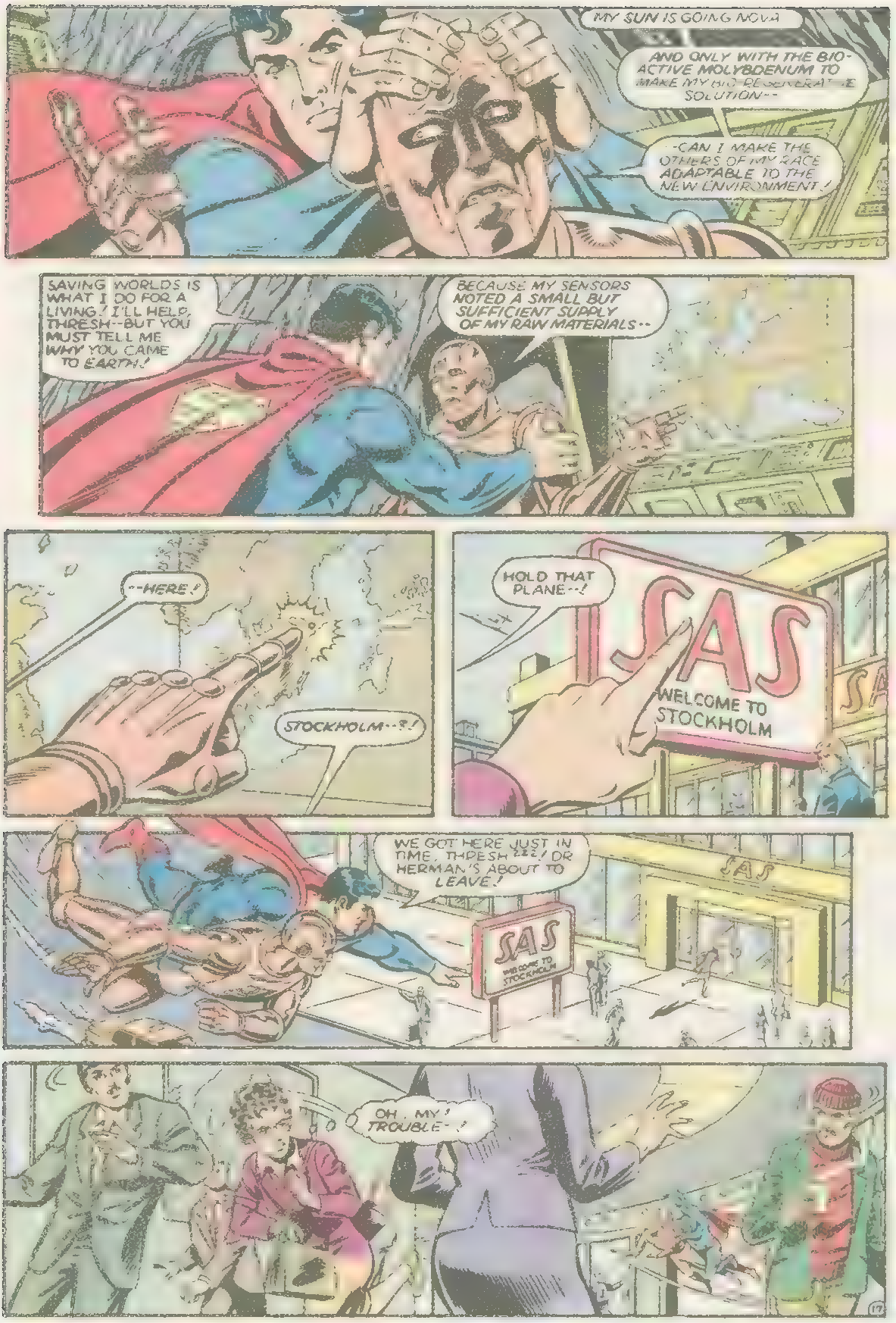

THIS BIO-ROBOT STAND-IN FOR CLARK KENT HAS RECENTLY UNDERGONE A MAJOR TRAUMA IN HIS TRAVELS...
...ENCODED AND REASSEMBLED BY A TELEPORTATION DEVICE ON THE EDGE OF TOTAL MALFUNCTION...
... LOSS OF IMMEDIATE MEMORY AND SUDDEN ASSUMPTION OF AN ALIEN IDENTITY.
ADD TO THAT, EXPOSURE TO THE BABBLING OF A BRAINLESS OFFICE-SEEKER...
...AND YOU'VE GOT A COMBINATION FOR DISASTER THAT IS SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE!

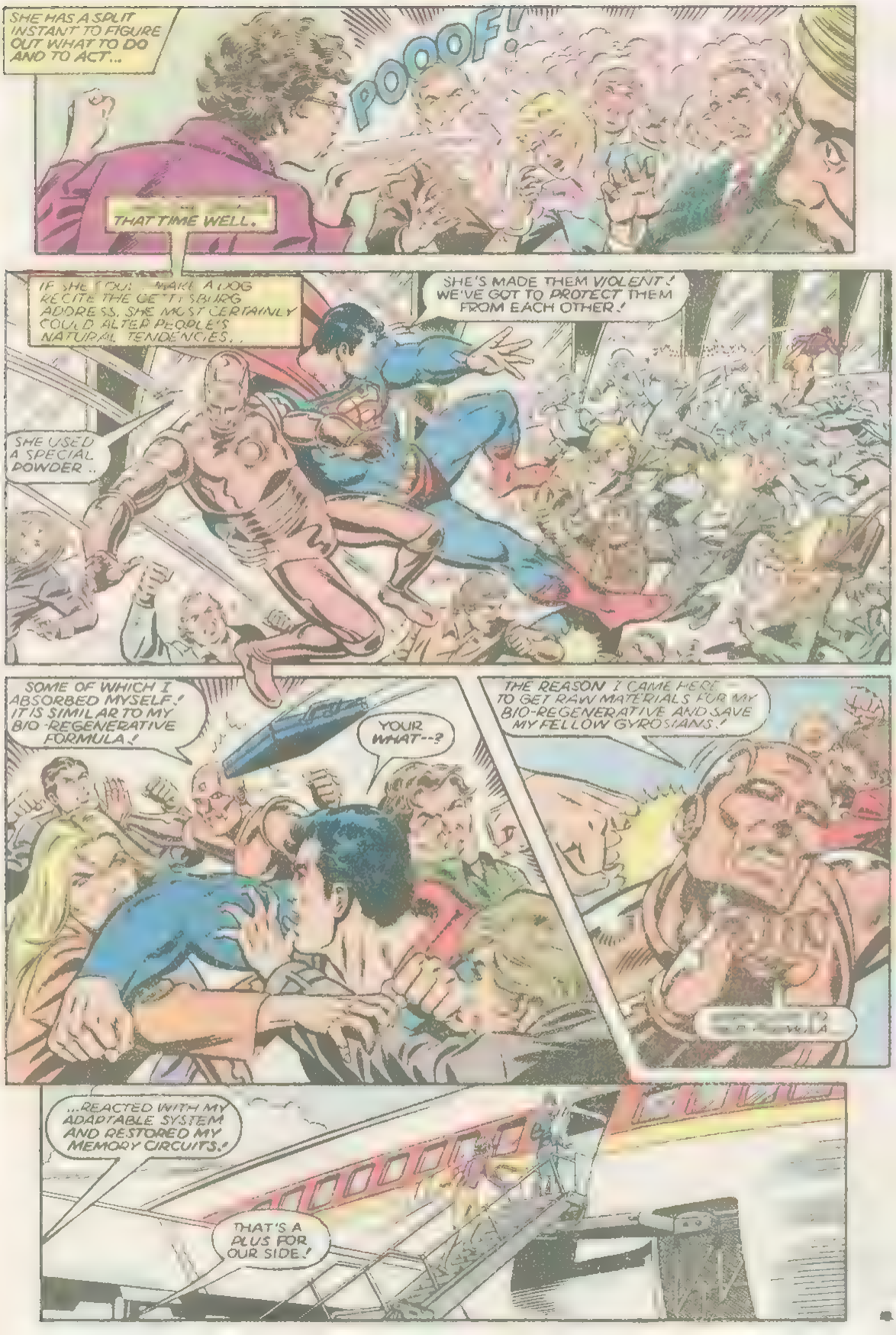
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

GREAT KRYPTON!
WOOOSH!
SUPERMAN!
BUT I'M SURE YOU'LL AGREE THAT I WAS CERTAINLY NOT AT FAULT FOR WHAT'S HAPPENED--
BEST WAY TO GO ABOUT THIS IS TRY TO BE MORE SURPRISED THAN I AM--
--AND TELL THE TRUTH AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE!
--AND THERE IS ADEQUATE EVIDENCE OF SUCH ON CAMERA FOR ALL THE WORLD TO SEE..
THIS "BABY" IS LARK KENT WE ALL KNOW! TECHNICIAN, GIVE ME SOME GAFFER'S TAPE!
THIS IS SOME SORT OF BIO-CIRCUIT ANDROID
--AND IT BEARS NO REFLECTION ON THE PROPOSALS I WAS EXPOUNDING UPON AND HAVE BEEN TALKING OF--
--MOTHER'S A LITTLE BAROMETER AIN'T HE LP..
--IN ANY NUMBER OF WAYS!
MMF!

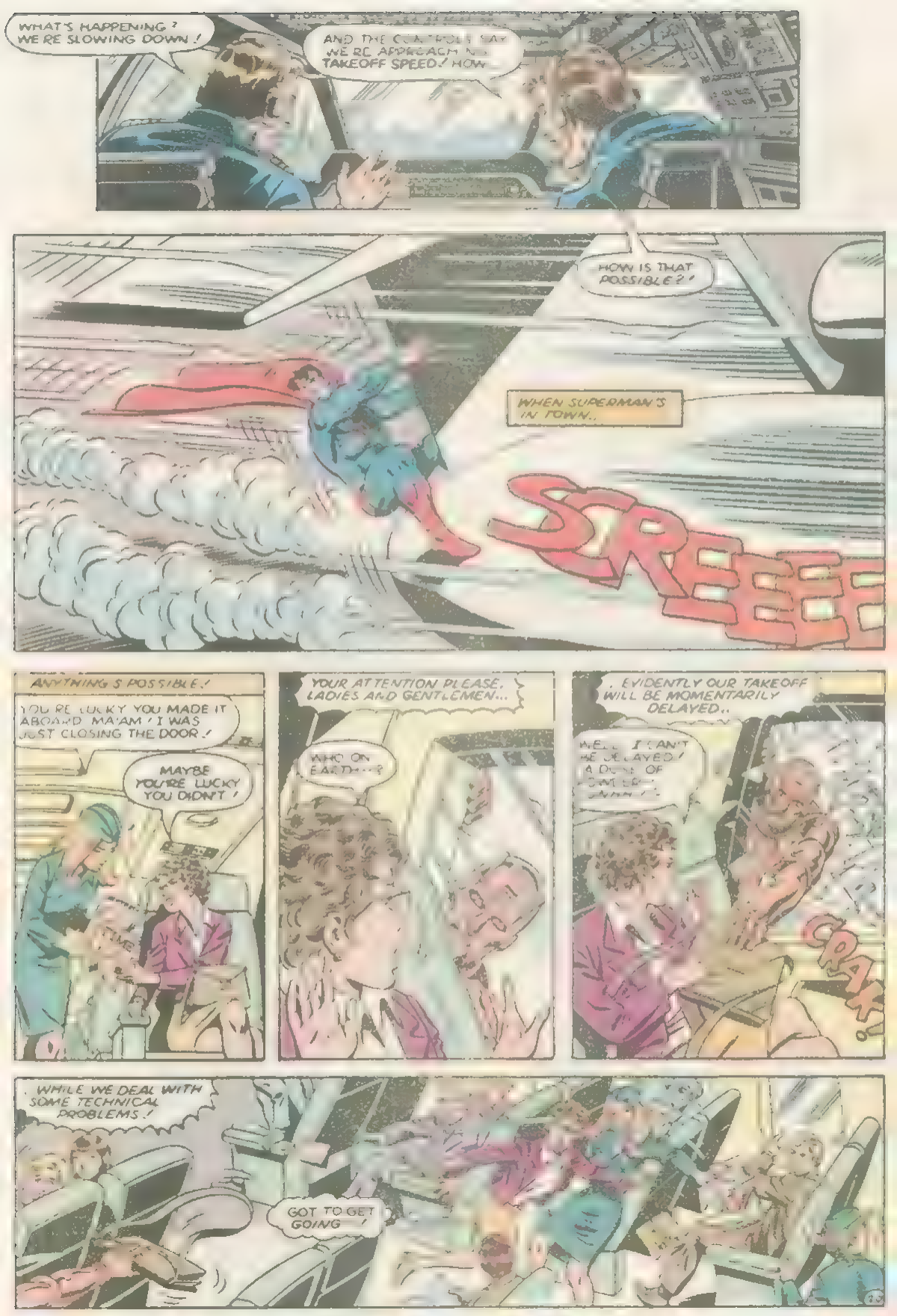
DAILY PLANET
REPORTER CLARK KENT EXPLODES ON LIVE TELEVISION!
NO NO NO... THIS ITEM BURIED HERE ON PAGE EIGHT
THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS IN FRONT OF THE STADSHUSET YESTERDAY.
GOOD THING LOTS OF PEOPLE AROUND HERE KNOW ENGLISH.
WHY THAT'S ELSA THE DAY, AND SHE'S KEPT CHASING STUDENTS AROUND THE SKATING RINK.
AN INJECTION?!
NO! I'M NOT MARRIED! I ALREADY HAVE ONE OF THE NOBEL ACADEMY ... WHY I CAME TO SWEDEN!

BUT PROFESSOR THAT'S MADNESS!
OH, PISH-TUSH! YOU'RE TOO YOUNG TO BE AN OLD POOP!
"BESIDES, THEY SHOULD BE MAKING THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT RIGHT ABOUT NOW, ANYWAY!"
THE UNPRECEDENTED ANNOUNCEMENT FOR WHICH WE OF THE NOBEL ACADEMY ASKED YOU HERE TODAY
S THE AWARD OF A SPECIAL NOBEL PRIZE FOR OUTSTANDING LIFETIME ACCOMPLISHMENT IN THE SCIENCES--
TO THE RENOWNED BIOLOGICAL THEORIST AND TECHNICIAN DR ALICE HERMAN OF METROPOLIS UNIVERSITY!
I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS WHEN YOU FIRST TURNED UP-- ED... WHAT'S THAT ABOUT DR. HERMAN?
YES, SHE'S BRILLIANT ENOUGH FOR THE PRIZE, BUT EVEN EINSTEIN HAD TO WAIT HIS TURN--
--AND FREUD NEVER GOT ONE AT ALL!
THRESHER 222!
THRESHER 222 MY NAME! AND NOW I REMEMBER EVERYTHING!
I'M HERE TO SAVE MY WORLD... IF IT IS NOT TOO LATE!


MY SUN IS GOING NOVA
AND ONLY WITH THE BIO-ACTIVE MOLYBDENUM TO MAKE MY BIO-REGENERATIVE SOLUTION--
-CAN I MAKE THE OTHERS OF MY RACE ADAPTABLE TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENT!
SAVING WORLDS IS WHAT I DO FOR A LIVING! I'LL HELP, THRESH--BUT YOU MUST TELL ME WHY YOU CAME TO EARTH!
BECAUSE MY SENSORS NOTED A SMALL BUT SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF MY RAW MATERIALS--
--HERE!
STOCKHOLM--?!
HOLD THAT PLANE--!
SAS
WELCOME TO STOCKHOLM
WE GOT HERE JUST IN TIME, THRESH!! DR HERMAN'S ABOUT TO LEAVE!
SAS
WELCOME TO STOCKHOLM
OH, MY! TROUBLE--!
17


SHE HAS A SPLIT INSTANT TO FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO AND TO ACT...
POOOF!
THAT TIME WELL.
IF SHE HAD MADE A DOG RECITE THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS, SHE MOST CERTAINLY COULD ALTER PEOPLE'S NATURAL TENDENCIES.
SHE'S MADE THEM VIOLENT! WE'VE GOT TO PROTECT THEM FROM EACH OTHER!
SHE USED A SPECIAL POWDER..
SOME OF WHICH I ABSORBED MYSELF! IT IS SIMILAR TO MY BIO-REGENERATIVE FORMULA!
YOUR WHAT--?
THE REASON I CAME HERE TO GET RAW MATERIALS FOR MY BIO-REGENERATIVE AND SAVE MY FELLOW GYROSIANS!
...REACTED WITH MY ADAPTABLE SYSTEM AND RESTORED MY MEMORY CIRCUITS!
THAT'S A PLUS FOR OUR SIDE!

MEANWHILE, OUR QUARRY IS SKIPPING TOWN AND WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE FAST!
STAND BACK THERE!!
--AND GIVE ME ROOM TO TAKE A DEEP BREATH!
WHOOO
WITH THE DISTENTION OF THE MAN'S PAIR OF LUNGS ON EARTH, THE MAN OF STEEL SUCKS OUT MOST OF THE OXYGEN FROM THE LONG CORRIDOR--
--LITERALLY KNOCKING THE WIND OUT OF THE RIOTERS..
HSOOO
THAT'S ONE WAY OF PUTTING IT!
NOW, I'LL GO ABOUT THE BUSINESS OF SAVING MY PLANET-
NEVER MIND! THOSE PEOPLE WILL BE READY TO TAKE EACH OTHER'S HEADS OFF IN TWO OR THREE BREATHS!


WHAT'S HAPPENING? WE'RE SLOWING DOWN!
AND THE CONTROLS SAY WE'RE APPROACHING TAKEOFF SPEED! HOW...
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?!
WHEN SUPERMAN'S IN TOWN..
SREEE
ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE!
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU MADE IT ABOARD MA'AM! I WAS JUST CLOSING THE DOOR!
MAYBE YOU'RE LUCKY YOU DIDN'T!
YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN...
WHO ON EARTH...?
EVIDENTLY OUR TAKEOFF WILL BE MOMENTARILY DELAYED..
WELL, I CAN'T BE DELAYED! A DATE OF
CRAK!
WHILE WE DEAL WITH SOME TECHNICAL PROBLEMS!
GOT TO GET GOING!

DR. HERMAN, I PRESUME...?
WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR COURTESY AND INDULGENCE...
...AND WISH YOU A PLEASANT FLIGHT!
SAS
MEANWHILE, DOZENS OF LIGHT-YEARS DISTANT, THE STAR GYROS
...APPROACHING THE ORBIT OF ITS FOURTH PLANET WHERE INHABITANTS STAND HELPLESSLY LIKE STATUES...
BUT BEFORE THRESHER LEAVES WITH THE RAW MATERIALS HE GATHERS ON EARTH, THERE IS SOME "DAMAGE" TO UNDO...
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR SENDING AN ANDROID TO DO A BATMAN'S JOB!

SO ON CLARK KENT'S LAST FILL-IN APPEARANCE AS AN AFTERNOON TALK-SHOW HOST..
THIS IS CLARK KENT, AND WELCOME TO NOONDAY LIVE!
NO, I AM NOT AN ANDROID...
...BUT I OWE YOU AN EXPLANATION AFTER MY PERFORMANCE LAST FRIDAY!
MEET PROTOTYPE 222, ONE OF SUPERMAN'S MORE OUTLANDISH HOBBIES!
HE CAN BEND OVER AND PICK UP AN OBJECT OR RECITE A PRE-RECORDED MESSAGE!
I have a little shadow
THIS IS MORGAN EDGE! GET ME KENT--AT ONCE!
.. that goes in and out with me...
OF COURSE I KNOW HE'S ON THE AIR!
TELL HIM TO GO TO A COMMERCIAL--RIGHT NOW!
AND AS SCREENS ACROSS METROPOLIS GO DIM TO SELL A FAST FOOD...
I LIKED YOU BETTER AS A ROBOT, KENT!
DON'T YOU KNOW WE COULD HAVE PUT YOU ON THE NETWORK IF PEOPLE THOUGHT YOU MIGHT REALLY BE... MECHANICAL?
IF EDGE BOUGHT IT, EVERYBODY WILL!
NOW YOU'VE GOT A SECRET IDENTITY TOO, THRESH!
THANK YOU, SUDE--CLARK KENT! BUT NOW...
...I HAVE MY WORLD TO SAVE!
GOOD LUCK!
HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF J. FRED MUGGS, KENT-?
22

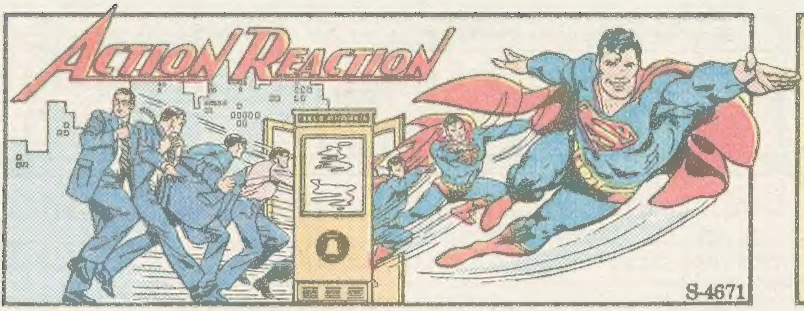
...AND ALSO ON TODAY'S NOONDAY LIVE, THE RETURN APPEARANCE BY COUNCILMAN GREGG--
--WHO WAS UNFAIRLY INTERRUPTED BY THE MALFUNCTION OF SUPERMAN'S ROBOTICS EXPERIMENT!
NOW, COUNCILMAN GREGG... YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN FOR MAYOR?
WHY DO YOU THINK YOU'D BE A GOOD MAYOR?
WHY...?
--BECAUSE I'VE ENJOYED SERVING ON THE CITY COUNCIL, AND I THINK THAT THE CITY OF METROPOLIS--
--WITH ITS WEALTH OF INDUSTRY AND ITS TOWERS REACHING FOR THE SKY--
--ITS GOLDEN APPLES UNDER THE SUN--PEOPLE OF--
COUNCILMAN! WHAT HAS THIS TO DO WITH MY QUESTION ABOUT--
I'M GETTING TO THAT! METROPOLIS, YOU SEE...
...IS MY CITY! IT'S YOUR CITY! I WOULD LIKE IT TO BE A CITY FOR--
THE QUESTION WASN'T THAT COMPLICATED, WAS IT?
--FOR ALL ITS PEOPLE! I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS A BOY--WE WERE VERY POOR...
...THE DEPRESSION CAME AND WE HAD TO FIRE ONE OF THE CHAUFFEURS--
--EVEN THEN I KNEW!
KER-POWWW!
I KNEW THAT WITH HARD WORK AND THE RIGHT POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY YOU COULD MOVE MOUNTAINS!
DAILY PLANET
CLARK KENT... ROBOT?

EPILOGUE

SOMETIME LATER, AT THE POCANTICO FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL FACILITY SEVERAL MILES NORTH OF METROPOLIS...
A VISITOR FOR YOU, DOC.! WANNA SEE HIM?
VISITOR...? WHO IS IT?
DON'T KNOW. JUST PASSING THE MESSAGE!
AND OUT IN THE VISITORS' GREETING AREA...
SUPERMAN--?!
THAT'S NOT WHAT MY MOTHER NAMED ME, BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE CAUGHT ON!
I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING.
IT ISN'T MUCH, BUT--
I...I WOULD HAVE BOUGHT MYSELF THIS BOOK IF I...HAD BEEN FREE TO GO TO A BOOKSTORE!
RIP!
WINNERS OF THE NOBEL PRIZE
WHY ARE YOU BEING... SO NICE TO ME--?
To Prof. Alice Herman- Here's hoping that the next edition of this book includes a certain biochemist from Metropolis! Superman
SELF-INTEREST, ALICE...
I HAD TWO FRIENDS--BOTH BRILLIANT MEN--WHO HAD DISAPPOINTMENTS THAT CHANGED THEIR LIVES...
...ONE BECAME A DEALER IN JUSTICE, WHILE THE OTHER IS A MENACE TO DECENT PEOPLE EVERYWHERE!
THEY WERE--
I KNOW THE TWO YOU MEAN, AND I APPRECIATE IT...
...BUT AS FOR WHICH WAY I GO, ONLY THE FUTURE WILL TELL!
WINNERS OF THE NOBEL

NEXT ISSUE/ 3 STORIES!

ON SALE JULY 25th! IT'S A DATE!



DC Comics Inc.
666 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10103

Jenette Kahn, President and Publisher
Dick Giordano, Vice Pres.-Executive Editor
Julius Schwartz, Editor
E. Nelson Bridwell, Consulting Editor
Tom Condon, Managing Editor
Pat Bastienne, Editorial Coordinator
Bob Rozakis, Production Manager
Paul Levitz, Executive Vice President
Joe Orlando, Vice Pres.-Creative Director
Ed Shukin, Vice Pres.-Circulation
Bruce Bristow, Marketing Director
Patrick Caldon, Controller

Dear Julie and Bob,

ACTION #567 was another satisfying and well-done issue, affording readers a look at two very different sides of *Superman*. Leading off was a lushly colored, bewitching cover by Pat Broderick and Jerry Ordway. A *Superman* story or two drawn by Mr. Broderick would be wonderful!

"Peri(l) in Paradise" was great fun. The continuity with issues 558 and 559 was pleasing. Bob Rozakis' witty script was a pleasure to read, and had many surprising great moments, like *Supie*'s musings on page 4, panel 1. Bob's ability to get inside *Superman*'s head always amazes me. After writing *SUPERMAN: THE SECRET YEARS*, he may understand the Man of Steel's psyche better than anybody else. *Supie*'s line about meeting "the powers that be who decided I should be powerless against magic" was especially delightful. I loved watching *Superman* losing his inhibitions, and his "wedding" to Lois was the hilarious highlight of the story. I can't wait for the next chapter in the continuing story of *Yellow Peri* and her scheming, no-good husband, Alvin.

The artwork by Kurt Schaffenberger and Dave Hunt was terrific. The more surrealist elements in the story (people being tossed into giant watermelons and the like) were beautifully handled. The quick change on page 16, panel 3 was great! Also, enough can't be said in praise of the warm, attractive coloring job throughout this issue by Gene D'Angelo.

Following this was another of your innovative and experimental back-up features. For a *Superman* story, "The League of Superman Watchers" was downright cerebral. Michael J. Wolff's mature and original script was crafted with surgical precision—there wasn't a wasted word or action in the whole 8 pages. This was a stimulating and convincing realistic tale, superbly illustrated by Alex Saviuk and Dennis Jensen. Bob Lappan's stylistic lettering also contributed to the story's high quality.

DAVID PULLEYBLANK
Box 103
Denver, IA 50622

David, modesty forbids Bob from answering your letter, so I'll say thanks for him! (Besides, he's off at the dentist's office!)

I have to agree that based on what I've read in comics, Bob does understand Superman extraordinarily well. I've always thought that was because he is Superman underneath his clever disguise of mild-mannered Production Manager!—LR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob,

I was quite captivated by the back-up story in *ACTION* #567, "The League of Superman Watchers," by Michael Wolff, who I assume to be a newcomer, for I don't recall seeing his name in a credit box before. First, the whole idea of the League makes sense. We've heard of *Superman* fan clubs before, but the League is the more organized and sophisticated group in the spectrum of *Superman* admirers. It's sort of like the difference between a neighborhood comic book club and the APA. Second, the story's focus on the handicapped Phillip Strick was both welcome and interesting. Welcome, because in the action-oriented world of comic books handicapped members of our society are usually overlooked. Interesting, because it made a neat point about the state of the handicapped today. The League had excluded Strick from membership not, I think, out of actual malice against him, but rather an unthinking adherence to a strict interpretation of the League's rules. They excluded him because he couldn't actually watch, ignoring the fact that the spirit of the league was not in physical observance of *Superman*, but rather in interest and monitoring of him. In a similar way, in society at large, such things as access ramps and telephones and washrooms suitable for people in wheelchairs are often unavailable simply because people forget, not because they think such things are not necessary and desirable for the handicapped.

And let's not forget the lead story, "Peri(l) in Paradise," by a certain writer/lettercol person. Though the fun got a little absurd at times, this was a genuinely enjoyable romp with the always charming *Yellow Peri*. I look forward to her appealing personality and gentle ways, but I'm sure *Superman* dreads the accompanying onslaught of trouble she always seems to bring. But, "certain writer," I'm still waiting for that rat of a husband of hers to get what's coming to him—and I'm not talking about a bunch of roses!

T.M. MAPLE
Box 1272, Station B
Weston, ONT M9L2R9

T.M., I'm going to have to find out if Mr. Wolff is married, and if so, have his wife accept the praise for him! If not, he'll just have to read your lavish admiration himself in this lettercol! You made some very sensitive points about the handicapped among us. Both Bob and I went to Hofstra University, and they have one of the best set-up campuses I've ever seen. After awhile, since it's easier for the handicapped to get about, you forget that there is anything different about them. It really is nice to accept people for who they are, not how they appear—LR

*****

Dear Julie and Bob,

I had a rollicking good time with "Peri(l) in Paradise" in #567. I liked the *"Captain Marvel"* atmosphere that the *Superman* line had adopted in the past year, with an emphasis on fun, with an occasional visit from a deadly serious Luthor or Brainiac to break the spell (pun intended) every so often. I enjoyed the series of deadly serious stories by Marv Wolfman, but aside from a needed reworking of Luthor and Brainiac, what were the lasting effects of the attempt? There was but a needless breakup and a flood of outraged mail over an attempted second breakup, the Whites. You are wise to let this idea die a slow death. The semihumorous stories leave more of a happy glow. The *Yellow Peri*'s powers leave her with limitless possibilities, although she could do just as well on her own. That's a hint for Alvin to get his. Do you know some states still have chain gangs?

CHARLES D. BROWN
39 Stockton St.
Brentwood, NY 11717

Charles, there seems to be a groundswell movement to do poor Alvin in. I'll have to go through Bob's next Yellow Peri script and white-out all references to him!

And on that note, I'll bid you all a fond adieu until next time. (Won't Bob be surprised when he comes home from the dentist and finds this lettercol is finished?) And, oh, yes, remember to "Look, up in the sky...!"—Laurie Rozakis

MEANWHILE...

Recently, I finished a three-part series of Meanwhile... columns dealing with what I do with my day as Executive Editor (and other activities!), but have you ever wondered what the rest of **DC**'s Editorial Staff does?

Well, mostly it starts by waiting for me. I seem to be so involved in the day-to-day activities of publishing comics that my opinion is sought on any number of matters, from approving advertising layouts to discussing the best inker to replace a departed one from any title. My office is comfortably messy and has a wall lined with covers, presenting the entire lineup of **DC** products, which is often used for springboard ideas.

When they're not waiting to get into my office (I really should add a number dispenser to aid the crowd in front of my door), the editors are all busy working on their individual titles.

Yet, it's not every editor for him or herself. Most mornings start with the early-bird editors—Alan Gold, Janice Race, Nick Cuti, Barbara Randall, and Bob Greenberger—gathering for coffee and catch-up conversation. Common problems get talked through and advice is sought or given ... whether it's asked for or not. Since everyone works with so many of the same writers and artists, it helps add a dimension of perspective. In addition to these impromptu coffee klatches, the entire editorial staff gathers each Friday for a weekly meeting. We wisely wait until after the free-lancers have come and demanded their checks and have departed for the bank before we meet. Lately, we've outgrown my office and now try to meet in the conference room when it's available.

Some of the weekly meetings are updates regarding new projects, sales reports, or other mundane matters. However, we recently completed meetings regarding plans for next year and how to take advantage of the cohesive universe **CRISIS ON INFINITE EARTHS** is leaving us. We're wrapping up the initial work and I must admit I like the direction the editors are headed.

Each editor has an individual style. Julie Schwartz spends a large part of his day talking out plots with writers or going over art with pencillers. Julie enjoys the personal touch and tries to have his free-lancers deliver the material, whenever possible, in person. Alan Gold or Karen Berger, however, deal with a large number of out-of-town free-lancers and spend much time on the phone, usually with Dan Mishkin. Since Dan writes for both, his calls get sent back and forth between offices throughout the week.

Andy Helfer has a drawing table in his office, making it a magnet for artists trying to do touch-ups or complete late assignments. It allows Andy to coerce them into doing something special like **ATARI FORCE** back feature stories. I'm not sure whose office has the more interesting collection of toys—Andy's or Len's. Len's may win by a jar—his candy jar. The only thing Len likes better than his teddy bear collection is changing the candy in his candy jar regularly and emptying the money from Mr. Box or the Coin-Eating Bear. No pay, no nosh.

The line to see Len is almost as long as the line to see me. As cover editor, Len must see each cover go through every step from sketch to pencils to inks to copy to paste-up and coloring. And, as our semi-official consultant/Senior Editor, Len trouble-shoots potential problems brought to his attention by any number of us.

Since every editor works on a handful of assignments, they usually find themselves doing a juggling act. Today, for example, Janice read through a proposal for a new series we're developing, spoke to a writer for a forthcoming graphic novel, checked over the pencils to the third **FIRESTORM ANNUAL**, did some research into a few of our old characters, spoke with another writer, answered questions from the Production Department, checked over sales information, answered phone calls, read the mail, and even had time for lunch. That's not all she did, but it gives you some idea of what each editor goes through every day.

The editor at **DC** is where ideas begin, usually by talking things through with a writer or an artist. It's the editor's job to make sure each part of the comic book process is done on schedule and done to the best abilities of the creators. That is either done with phone calls or letters or maybe even long lunches away from the hectic atmosphere at the office. It's like making a stew. The editor takes pieces from the writer, penciller, inker, letterer, and colorist, tosses them into a pot, adds some special spices, and—hopefully—produces a successful comic that ships on time and looks and reads great.

Not only must editors work on the individual titles they are charged with, but they work together planning crossovers—such as this summer's slew of tie-ins with **CRISIS**—or discussing ways to better publicize and promote the titles. New proposals come in from all directions every day and we call on some of the editors to render their opinions, and the ones we like get assigned to an editor to be shaped into **DC**'s next exciting comic title.

The work is endless, the pace is frantic, and the material rewards are not always equal to the effort expended. But they're a special breed and often a good book going out the door is its own reward. And I enjoy working with them. Those Friday afternoon meetings let off a lot of tension and sometimes the topic of the day is ignored as we crack bad jokes and laugh.

They're a good bunch ... spirited and loyal and the best group of editors we could possibly assemble. Hopefully, you agree and will let them know from time to time either through a letter to the editor or a passing comment at the conventions. After all, man does not live by bread alone ... sometimes a grateful pat on the head helps. Take a bow, guys and gals ... you deserve it.

Now get back to work!

Thank you and good afternoon.

Dick

DC CHECK LIST

ON SALE THE WEEK OF JUNE 27

☐ **Tales of the Legion 327:** It's all-out war as the Legion of Super-Villains go into action!

☐ **Action Comics 571:** Brian Bolland cover and a story inside that's just as startling!

☐ **Detective Comics 554:** Batman in underwater danger, and Green Arrow unveils Black Canary's new costume!

☐ **World's Finest Comics 319:** The mystery of Superman's sleeplessness continues, plus a new villain!

☐ **All-Star Squadron 49:** After 48 years—the return of Dr. Occult!

☐ **Arion 35:** Black magic invades Atlantis—can Arion stop it?

☐ **V 8:** Ham, Chris, and Robin must stop a Visitor invasion in Illinois!

☐ **Wonder Woman 327:** In South America, Wonder Woman confronts the **CRISIS!**

☐ **Ambush Bug 4:** Scabbard from **THRILLER** turns up in "Whoops!"

☐ **Batman & the Outsiders Annual 2:** The Masters of Disaster spoil Metamorpho's wedding day!

☐ **Vigilante Annual 1:** In his first-ever annual, Vigilante confronts his most deadly foe yet!